

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 DAMASC 02599 251221Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----251229Z 107282 /50
O 251120Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2790
INFO AMEMBASSY BERN IMMEDIATE
USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 2599

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, SY, US
SUBJECT: CARTER-ASAD MEETING IN GENEVA

REF: STATE 92309

1. CHARGE MET WITH PRESIDENT'S POLITICAL ADVISOR DAOUDI
APRIL 25 TO REVIEW ARRANGEMENTS IN ACCORDANCE REFTEL.
DAOUDI STATES SYRIAN SIDE IS AGREEABLE TO INTERCONTIENTAL
HOTEL AS SITE FOR MEETING. HE ALSO AGREES TO PROPOSAL THAT
MEETINGS BETWEEN THE TWO PRESIDENTS BEGIN AT 3:30 P.M.
ON 18TH FLOOR OF HOTEL. IN ADDITION, SYRIAN SIDE IS
AGREEABLE THAT PORTION OF THE MEETING BE A PRIVATE
DISCUSSION BETWEEN THE TWO PRESIDENTS WITH ONLY ISA SABBAGH
PRESENT TO INTERPRET. PRIVATE DISCUSSION COULD TAKE PLACE
AT ANY TIME DURING MEETING THE DAOUDI SUGGESTS OPENING
SESSION AT 3:30 P.M. INCLUDE ADVISORS.

2. DAOUDI WILL ADVISE ME OF PRESIDENT ASAD'S
REACTION TO WORKING DINNER INVITATION. HE PERSONALLY
BELIEVES PRESIDENT WOULD BE HAPPY TO ACCEPT.

3. SYRIAN ADVANCE PARTY OF DAOUDI, COL. AL-KHULI
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(SECURITY) AND KHALIL SA'DAWI (PROTOCOL) WILL TRAVEL TO GENEVA
APRIL 27 TO FIRM UP ARRANGEMENTS ON SYRIAN
SIDE. HE REQUESTS THAT I ADVISE HIM BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE
OF NAME, ADDRESS AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF MOST APPROPRIATE
AMERICAN CONTACT FOR HIM TO BE IN TOUCH WITH SHOULD ANY
QUESTION ARISE REQUIRING CONSULTATION DURING HIS VISIT
TO GENEVA. PLEASE ADVISE ASAP.

4. DAOUDI NOTED THAT A NUMBER OF SYRIAN JOURNALISTS WOULD BE ACCOMPANYING PRESIDENT ASAD AND ASKED WHETHER WE HAD ANY PROPOSAL REGARDING PRESS CONFERENCES OR STATEMENTS. HE SAID HE DID NOT KNOW PRESIDENT ASAD'S THINKING ON THIS POINT BUT WOULD BE HAPPY TO PRESENT ANY PROPOSAL WE MIGHT OFFER.

5. DAOUDI SAID COMPOSITION OF OFFICIALSYRIAN PARTY HAD NOT YET BEEN DECIDED. HE ASKED ABOUT COMPOSITION OF OFFICIAL U.S. PARTY. HE ALSO WISHED TO BE CERTAIN THAT MRS. CARTER WOULD NOT BE ACCOMPANYING THE PRESIDENT TO GENEVA. PLEASE ADVISE.

6. DAOUDI CONFIRMED THAT PRESIDENT ASAD WOULD REMAIN IN GENEVA UNTIL MAY 10 AND HAD ACCEPTED THE SWISS PRESIDENT'S INVITATION TO LUNCHEON MAY 10. HE DID NOT KNOW WHERE THE LUNCHEON WOULD BE HELD. HE ALSO SAID THAT BOTH PRESIDENTS WOULD BE MET ON ARRIVAL BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE SWISS FOREIGN MINISTRY AND THE SWISS CHIEF OF PROTOCOL.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETING AGENDA, CHIEFS OF STATE MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 25-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977DAMASC02599
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770143-0520
Format: TEL
From: DAMASCUS
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770424/aaaaauei.tel
Line Count: 84
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: a0d916a0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 77 STATE 92309
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2708843
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CARTER-ASAD MEETING IN GENEVA
TAGS: PFOR, SY, US, SZ
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a0d916a0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009